

OK TO ENTER: /EL/

02/01/2008

JAN 23 2008

60,469-403 PUS1
PA-000.04416-US-A**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Richard J. Ericson
Serial Number: 10/684,171
Filed: 10/10/2003
Group Art Unit: 3654
Examiner: Langdon, Evan H.
Title: TRACTION ENHANCED CONTROLLED PRESSURE
FLEXIBLE FLAT TERMINATION DEVICE

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed on November 23, 2007.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102
based on the Nichols reference
must be withdrawn

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 22, 23 and 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the *Nichols* reference. There is no *prima facie* case of anticipation. First, the *Nichols* reference is not directed to an elevator arrangement nor one that would be considered compatible with an elevator arrangement. One skilled in the art clearly recognizes a difference between an elevator system and suspending a load in an elevator system on the one hand and a climbing rope having a rope grabber device as disclosed in the *Nichols* reference, on the other hand.